

Appl. No. 10/057,929
Amendment dated September 29, 2003
Reply to Office Action of April 29, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

A machine for making composite filter mouthpieces for cigarettes ~~or the like~~ has a conveyor serving to transport a series of upright tubes of paper ~~or the like~~ past a vertically movable plunger which serves to introduce into successive tubes alternating plugs or wads of filter material and batches of flowable granular and/or pulverulent filter material. If the extent to which the plunger descends into a registering tube is outside of a predetermined range, the tube contains an excessive quantity or less than the required quantity of filter material. This is detected by one or more sensors which causes or cause ejection of the respective tube from the path for acceptable filter mouthpieces. A compensating device cooperates with the plunger to allow for proper confinement of flowable filter material against rattling between a pair of filter plugs if the quantity of such flowable filter material in a tube is below an optimum value.

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